

CUSTOMIZE THE TASKBAR IN WINDOWS 11

Windows 11 taskbar behaves differently from the previous versions. Its right-click menu is different, its settings have been completely overhauled, and even pinning icons to the taskbar works differently.

After installing Windows 11, the first thing you will probably notice is the changes to the taskbar. There are a bunch of new icons all moved to the middle while Cortana seems to be demoted from the front desk job. These upfront changes are just the tip of the iceberg.

Remove the default icons.

There are a few icons on the taskbar by default that can't be removed using the unpin function. Other than the Start menu, you can remove the other icons using the taskbar settings. Right-click on the taskbar and then click on the Taskbar settings option.

Open taskbar settings/Remove taskbar icons

Here at the top, you'll see all the taskbar default items with a toggle button next to them. Just toggle off the items you don't want to see on the taskbar, and they will be removed.

Move taskbar icons to the left. (personal preference)

Go to the taskbar settings as we did above. Here scroll down and open the Taskbar behaviors section. Afterward, select Left in the Taskbar alignment option.

Pin icons to the taskbar

The easiest method is to search for the app using Windows Search and then right-click on it and select Pin to taskbar.

To do it from Windows Explorer, you have to first right-click the app icon and select the Show more option, and then you'll see the Pin to taskbar option.

Enable taskbar auto-hide

Windows 11 retains the auto-hide function like in the previous versions, and it can be found in the taskbar settings. Scroll down in the taskbar settings and open the Taskbar behaviors section. Here check the checkbox next to the Automatically hide the taskbar option. Now, unless you hover the mouse cursor over the taskbar area, the taskbar will stay hidden.

Make the taskbar transparent.

You can also make the taskbar change its color according to the background and make it look transparent. Here's how:

Click on the Start menu and select Settings from it.

Select Personalization in the left panel and then click on Colors.

Enable the Transparency effects option, and it will make the taskbar transparent.

Hide/show system tray icons.

In previous versions of Windows, you could easily hide/show icons in the system tray right from the taskbar. However, in Windows 11, the name of the system tray is changed to "Taskbar corner overflow", and you have to manage it from the taskbar settings.

In the taskbar settings, there is a dedicated section for *Taskbar corner overflow*. You can click on it to open all the apps that can show its icon on the Taskbar corner overflow. You will have to individually toggle on/off apps here to hide/show their icons in the right corner of the taskbar.

Disable the Show Desktop button on the taskbar

The Show Desktop button on the taskbar is much smaller in Windows 11 and doesn't show the desktop when you hover the mouse pointer on it. However, if you are still not interested in using this feature and feel like it's taking unrequired space on the taskbar, you can disable it.

Go to the taskbar settings and open up the *Taskbar behaviors* section. Here uncheck the option Select the far corner of the taskbar to show the desktop, and the button will be removed.

Change the taskbar color.

You can use custom colors for the taskbar that won't be influenced by the color of your theme. Here's how to do it:

1. In Windows 11 settings, click on Personalization in the left panel and then select the Colors option.

2. Select Custom in the Choose your mode section and Dark in the Choose your default Windows mode section.
3. Now scroll down and enable the option Show accent color on Start and taskbar.
4. Afterward, set the Accent color option to Manual and choose any color you like below to select as your taskbar color. You can also open up the color wheel by clicking on the Custom colors option to set a custom color.

Can't Move the taskbar to the side or top

The previous versions of Windows allowed you to move the taskbar to the top, left, or right side, but Windows 11 has forced it to stay at the bottom..

Change the taskbar size.

If you want a better view of the taskbar icons or want to fit in more icons on the taskbar, you can do so by increasing or decreasing the size of the taskbar. However, you will have to edit the registry to make this happen.

Open up the registry (Windows + R, then regedit) and access the following location:

1. \HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced
2. While the Advanced folder is selected, right-click on an empty space in the right panel and select New > DWORD (32-bit) Value.
3. Create dword value
4. Name this new key TaskbarSi and double-click on it to open it.
5. Under Value data, change the value to 0, 1, or 2 to change the size to small, medium, or large, respectively. Here the medium is the default Windows 11 taskbar size.
6. Once done, click on OK and restart the computer.